(b) The staff is to be transferred to the new Zones by taking options. Enough number of staff is expected to register their willingness for transfer to the new Zones for meeting the requirements. Number of staff required to be transferred will be according to the number of posts commensurate with the workload.

Gauge conversion of rail lines

2613. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion of existing rail lines in the country; particularly in the NER;

(b) the details of those conversion works, running behind the schedule and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Under Project Uni-gauge, gauge conversion of 9000 km of MG / NG lines has been done up to 31.3.2002. Further, gauge conversion of about 8500 km is in progress. On N.E. Railway, gauge conversion of 1137 km. of MG/NG lines has been done upto 31.3.2002. Further gauge conversion of 1543 km is in progress out of existing 2757 km of MG lines.

(b) Keeping in view the overall availability of resources, the targets are fixed on yearly basis. The works are being progressed and completed as per these targets.

(c) Additional funds have been generated through participation of State Governments, beneficiaries and other sources. This will provide additional resources to speed up the works.

Railway Policy

2614. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH 'LIBRA':
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering to lay down a National Railway Policy, in the near future; if so, the details thereof; and